Launching of DTH services

2293. SHRI K. RAMA MOKANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to launch the services of DTH to its viewers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the broadcasters are opposing 20 per cent equity restrictions set under the DTH guidelines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government on such demand?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Government of India has already approved the DTH policy on 2.11.2000 and detailed guidelines were issued in 15.3 001. Some suggestions/ recommendations, including removal of the 20 percent equity .restriction, have been received from various quarters, fn this regard the recommendations of the Working Group on I&B Sector (which was set up by the Planning Commission for the formulation of the 10th Five Year Plan) are under consideration of the Government.

Guidelines for setting up of TV towers In rural areas

†2294. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Government's guidelines for setting up of T.V. towers in rural areas;

(b) whether Government have received applications from local M.P. for setting up of a T.V. tower at Chidgaon, Shimla district;

(c) if so, whether Government will set up a T.V. tower during the year 2002-2003 keeping in view of the demand of public there; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The factors which are taken

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.